

## Main Commission Meeting

6 December 2023, 3.00 – 5.30pm, MS Teams

### Draft Minutes

<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Councillor Claire Douglas chaired the meeting for the first hour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Councillor Douglas introduced herself as the new Vice Chair for North Yorkshire.</li><li>- The new Vice Chair for East Yorkshire Councillor Paul West was welcomed.</li><li>- New Commissioner Siobhan Barton (NPG) was welcomed.</li> <li>- New Commissioner Sam Perry (TUC) was welcomed. Liz Blackshaw (TUC) introduced herself and explained that she was joining today as might need to cover for Sam at future meetings.</li></ul> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Roz Davies, Ian Floyd, Sajalu Greenall, Amir Hussain, Beckie Hart, Kate Josephs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Commissioners were invited to propose items for AOB. None were proposed.</li></ul>	Chair
<p><b>2. Meeting action log and minutes from the last meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Action log was updated and approved.</li><li>- The Minutes were accepted</li></ul>	Chair
<p><b>3. Co-Directors Progress Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Phase 1 Actions – by exception</i></li><li>- <i>DI Sessions &amp; Insights Papers</i></li></ul> <p><u>Key comments on paper 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Transport for the North are looking to update their strategy as an inclusive transport strategy and will be able to share evidence from this with the Commission.</li><li>- Lucie Middlemiss’s Climate Services Ethical Framework contains evidence that can be utilised.</li></ul> <p><u>Key comments on paper 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Most DI sessions are written up and we have now developed a plan for the remaining consultations which runs up to the pre-election period. The insight papers will continue to be finalised into the summer 2024. This work puts a high demand on the Commissions Team but it is important and fruitful work.</li></ul>	Rosa <i>Paper 1</i> <i>Paper 2</i>



**Action: Rosa to follow up with Oliver and his team about more diverse engagement on Commonplace**

- It was observed that the number of respondents on Commonplace was low.
- Is the public the main audience for the Commission, who should the main audience be?
- The Comms teams for each of the Local Authorities will have a wide reach. Could this be the channel that is used rather than the tactic of building up the Commission's own identity with the public?
- Who needs to be aware of the Commission's identity as opposed to hearing messages about climate?
  
- There is a challenge of having a regional conversation on a platform that's set up for hyperlocal consultation.
- East Yorkshire have a peoples' panel and a business panel, and it's assumed that all LAs have something similar. How can we utilise those existing representative engagement panels?

Additional Information from Kate:

- We are producing videos and short animations, using professionals to produce a suite for the consultations.
- Our contract with Commonplace comes to an end in April, and we are locked into this process for the DI papers.
- We have concerns about how much we are asking people to consult on. Asking people to read the papers and engage with that is a lot and so in this context the number of responses is positive. It was a very ambitious plan.

**6. How about you?**

Time for Commissioners to share their own highlights, progress and challenges progressing Climate Actions with fellow Commissioners

Beckie Hart, CBI – written report provided:

Since June 2023, the CBI has been convening members to understand their priorities for the Autumn Statement. Our economists did a lot of work on what the size of the fiscal envelope could be so that every member ask was fully costed and evidence based. Our Autumn Statement submission was sent into HM Treasury early September and that led to multiple meetings every week at a number of different levels to ensure those priorities were being considered. We were delighted to be publicly credited by the Chancellor from the despatch box when he announced that full capital expensing will be made permanent. We know that it will help businesses to invest across the board but we are not content to stop there and are now working on building an evidence base to introduce a "green super deduction" which will prioritise investment in areas which have greater net zero potential.

In addition to this, the measures announced to take action on grid connectivity, reforms to the planning system around energy infrastructure and EGL (Electricity Generator Levy) exemptions will also help to speed up the delivery of net zero infrastructure and investment in associated supply chains. However, the extent to which the Autumn Statement delivers on the pace of UK transition will depend on how commitments, especially on grid and planning, are implemented in practice.

Open to Commissioners

The £960M Green Industries Growth Accelerator (GIGA) is also welcomed, but covering 5 key industry sectors across 5 years, this works out at only ca. £38M/year/sector to tackle some deep-rooted supply chain challenges. Similarly, the more Government's more recently announced battery strategy is a very welcome step in the right direction but we highlighted that it didn't go far enough in that it doesn't seem to have taken account of the role battery storage could play in the broader energy transition.

Confirmation of the next phase of the IETF (Industrial Energy Transformation Fund), with some minor amendments, was another positive note in the Autumn Statement, whilst other sectors of industry continue to await news on their plans to decarbonise in the key industrial clusters of the UK, such as the Humber.

Minor changes to VAT exemption on additional energy-saving technologies for home and business, and the removal of the ubiquitous 1 m restriction on heat pump installations are small, but welcome moves by business and the consumer.

The CBI, launched its [business manifesto](#) last week sets out a programme for Government across five missions, one of which - Honouring climate commitments to drive green growth for the benefit of all is the most pertinent for the Climate Commission and we look forward to working with the commissioners to take this forwards.

#### Bruce Heppenstall, Drax:

- CCS in the Humber is now starting to move, and the Viking Development has been awarded Track 2 status which will put in a pipeline linking the south bank of the Humber. There were no projects for the Humber in Track 1. This pipeline is one of the key components to achieving net zero by 2050.
- At the Yorkshire Post Climate Action Summit there was an organised protest at a panel that Bruce was on.
- The Commission recognised the challenge that this kind of incident poses to us as individuals. The Commission reaffirmed that it is an important collaboration where complex issues are worked through together recognising that we need to debate them properly, and that the Commission is where we have these debates in a safe and respectful way.

#### Rachael Bice, YWT:

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies are beginning in all regions. The East Yorkshire LNRS consultation is live. The length of time it's taken for government to provide resources has left very little time for proper consultation. YWT are doing are best to input where we can and convening an NGO workshop to articulate what nature needs.
- The Great North Bog involves a huge amount of peatland restoration. There has been a gold rush towards nature-based finance. The market is underdeveloped and there are unrealistic expectations about making money from it.
- The Local Landscape recovery schemes 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round projects involve private finance to offset what we were getting from Europe. We need to spend time helping them to understand what is possible in the green finance area.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate scenarios – The Wildlife Trust (nationally) are talking about much more extreme events happening sooner, and thinking about what happens to wildlife when the emergency services are taken up with risk to life.</li> <li>- The 1.5 degrees of warming target is gone, so what are we preparing for, and are we really addressing where we are going to be in a few years' time?</li> </ul> <p><u>Martin Budd, Hull City Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The local area energy plan for Hull and E Yorkshire is looking at how to bring carbon budgeting into the Local Authority and public sector and looking at carbon “insetting”.</li> </ul> <p><u>Adam Ashman, Yorkshire Water:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Their business plan has been submitted to OFWAT, which includes a customer price review, lots of focus on the environment, improving the aquatic environment and peatland, transitioning to net zero, treatment of wastewater, sustainability with water and flooding.</li> </ul> <p><u>Simon Bowens, Friends of the Earth:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A piece of research they have produced re decline in bus services over last 15 years. East Riding has had a 74% decrease. <a href="https://friendsoftheearth.uk/sustainable-living/bus-services-outside-london-plummet-new-research">https://friendsoftheearth.uk/sustainable-living/bus-services-outside-london-plummet-new-research</a></li> </ul> <p><u>Emma Richards, Carbon Literacy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There have been 77000 learners certified as carbon literate. Carbon Literacy has received funding for a digital sector carbon literacy toolkit. The courses are driving climate action and organisational change. Other new courses coming soon include one for the fashion industry.</li> </ul>	
<p>7. <b><u>Phase 1 into Phase 2 – Rosa</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rosa briefly talked through the plans for Phase 2, the proposed timeline for that transition, and therefore set the context of our phase 1 products, which were to be explored more after the break.</li> </ul>	<p>Paper 3 and slide deck 1</p>
<p>Break (10 mins)</p>	
<p>Note: Liz Barber took over Chairing for the final part of the meeting</p> <p>8. <b><u>Workshop Session on Phase 1 Products:</u></b></p> <p>Introduction to session (Rosa)</p>	<p><i>Slide Deck 3</i></p>

<p>1) Our Story as a Commission (4.30-4.45) <i>(Discussion in small groups, drawing out experiences and stories of Commissioners)</i></p> <p>2) Carbon Budget Pathways (4.45 – 5.15) Summary presentation (Andrew Sudmant / Millie Duncan) followed by discussion on no more than three key questions in small groups, 5.15 - Live Mentimeter voting (anonymous) 5.20 - Summary and next steps</p>	
<p><b>9. <u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Thanks to Claire for chairing and for everyone’s input. The Team will gather up your comments.</p> <p>Niki Roach . President of CIWEM is looking for a Commissioner to join her to co-host the December episode of Planet Possible - the CIWEM podcast. CIWEM has two delegates at COP28 and I thought it would be great to reflect on the UK and local context. Niki would need to record around the middle of Dec for a release on the 20th. Any volunteers to get in touch with Jane.</p>	
<p>Close</p>	

Date of the next meeting: Online, Wednesday 20 March 15.00 - 17.30

<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b> Liz Barber, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Water</p> <p><b>Vice Chairs</b></p> <p>North Yorkshire - Cllr CLaire Douglas, Leader of York City Council</p> <p>East Yorkshire - Cllr Paul West</p> <p><b>Co – Directors</b></p> <p>Rosa Foster, University of Leeds and Planning and Engagement Manger, Environment Agency</p> <p><b>Senior Officer Nominees</b></p> <p>Martin Budd, on behalf of Mark Jones, Hull City Council</p> <p><b>Commissioners</b></p> <p>Adam Ashman, Head of Strategic Planning, Yorkshire Water</p>
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Alexis Percival, Environmental and Sustainability Manager, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Alice Sweetman, YBS

Bruce Heppenstall, Plant Director, Drax

Claire Wiley, RYCA

Daniel Barrett, NHS

Dr Jatinder Singh Mehmi, Sikh Alliance Yorkshire

Dr Peter O'Brien, Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities

Dr Robyn Cooper Inglis, Research and Innovation Development Manager for Environment, University of York

Emma Richards, Project Leader, The Carbon Literacy Project

Gordon Rogers, former Head of Sustainability at Yorkshire Water

Helen Slinger, Executive Director at Accounting for Sustainability (A4S)

Liz Blackshaw for Sam Perry, TUC

Martyn Broadest, Executive Director, Connect Housing Association

Mel Taylor, Just Strategy

Neil Whalley, Head of Stakeholder Relations, Northern Gas Networks

Natasha Nauth, Relationship Director, NatWest

Oliver Harmar, Area Director for Yorkshire, Environment Agency

Peter Cole, Principal Environmental and Sustainability Officer, Transport for the North

Philip Holdgate, Head of Production Sustainability, ITV Studios

Rachael Bice, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Sarah Clark, Operations Manager, Aura Innovation Centre, University of Hull

Simon Bowens, Regional Campaign Organiser for Yorkshire and the North East, Friends of the Earth

Simon Pringle

### **Secretariat**

Jane Stanbury, Secretariat Administrator

Kathryn Lock, Policy and Communications Manager

Amelia Duncan, Policy Fellow

Simon Moore, Communication Officer

Kat Armstrong, Engagement and Impact Officer

Sam Herbert, Engagement and Impact Officer

Jon Kedward, Engagement and Impact Officer

Andrew Wood, Senior Engagement and Impact Officer

Muriel Bonjean Stanton, Engagement and Impact Officer